

P-16 Council Update

At the September P-16 Council meeting, Dr. William Brundage, Commissioner for the New Economy, presented an overview of the new economy agenda and the role of the P-16 Council in forwarding this agenda. Dr. Brundage made clear that a successful P-16 strategy is an essential part of Kentucky's new economy agenda and that a strong foundation in mathematics and science is critical to this agenda.

Dr. Keith Bird, Chancellor of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, was joined by Emil Jezik, Executive Director of Workforce Training in the Office of Workforce and Economic Development, and Kentucky Department of Education staff to outline how the KCTCS, the KDE, technical schools, local school districts, and four-year institutions are working together to coordinate career and technical education in Kentucky through articulation agreements and dual credit arrangements.

Sheila Byrd, Director of the American Diploma Project, reported on the work Kentucky and other participating states are doing to make high school assessments usable by employers and postsecondary institutions in their hiring, admissions, and placement decisions. The P-16 Council also discussed the decline this year of Kentucky's ACT scores and a recent study sponsored by The Education Trust on teacher certification and out-of-field placement of teachers. The council focused on the implications for P-16 work in Kentucky.

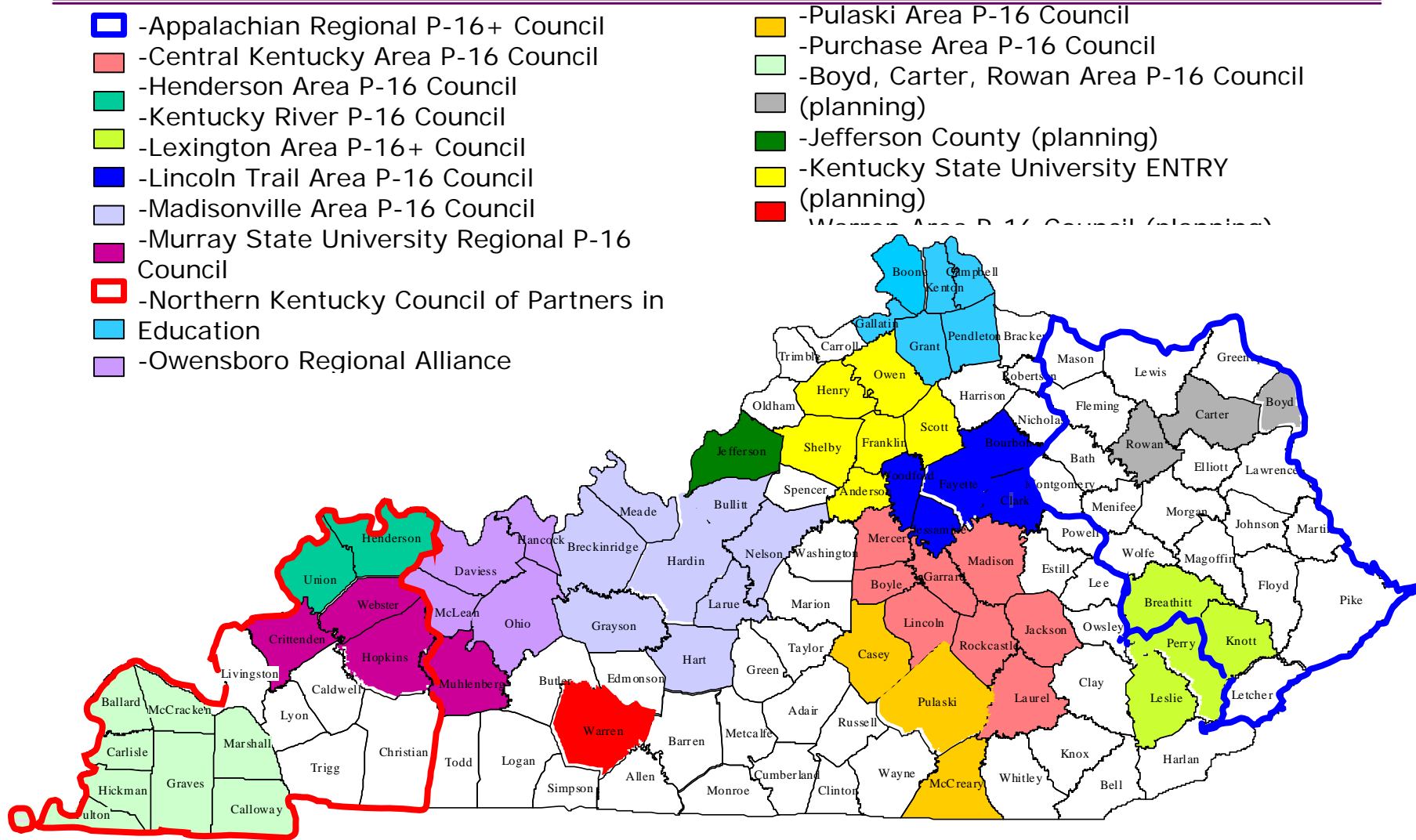
After reviewing the initiatives that the P-16 Council has sponsored during its first three years, the council charged the staff to draft a vision statement, an action agenda, and a set of performance indicators for presentation at its December meeting. Following a similar process undertaken by the Council on Postsecondary Education, the P-16 Council will focus its work by identifying specific goals that reflect its commitment to creating a seamless system of education in Kentucky. The objectives contained in the action agenda will be organized in part around the broad themes that the P-16 Council has pursued since its inception: teacher quality; alignment of P-12, adult education, and postsecondary curricula; and increasing the college-going rate and success of Kentucky's students. Key indicators will measure success in connecting education sectors and increase accountability for achieving Kentucky's seamless P-16 vision. Each partner agency and local P-16 council will participate in the development process and will be asked to outline its expected contribution to the overall agenda.

Since the P-16 Council's June meeting, the Council on Postsecondary Education has funded five more proposals for local P-16 councils. The council funded a total of 11 local P-16 councils last year, seven of which include Go Higher communities as part of the council's public communication campaign. The Appalachian Regional P-16 Council was formed before this funding process began. (See Go Higher Communities, page 35.) An additional \$100,000 for

each year of the biennium has been allocated for starting and supporting local P-16 councils.
(See attached map.)

Staff preparation by Dianne M. Bazell

Kentucky Local P-16 Council Development



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